

## AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace sheet 3 of the drawings with the enclosed replacement sheet that contains the examiner's requested correction to the reference numerals in FIG. 4. Specifically, reference numeral '45' in FIG. 4 has been corrected to '48'.

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reconsidered in view of the Office Action of December 28, 2005. The specification has been amended to indicate that VELCRO® is a registered trademark as indicated by the examiner. Figure 4 of the drawings has also been amended to indicate that the upper hook strips should both be identified as reference numeral 48. This does not raise any new matter because, as the examiner correctly indicated, the specification identifies the upper hook strips as reference numeral 48. A replacement sheet is enclosed depicting this change.

The allowance of claims 11-28 and the indication that claims 2-10 and 33-34 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form is gratefully appreciated. Claim 29 has been amended to correct the informality indicated by the examiner by replacing the term 'boot' with 'boots'. It is respectfully asserted that this overcomes the examiner's objection to this claim as well as claims 30 and 31 that depend from claim 29 and that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

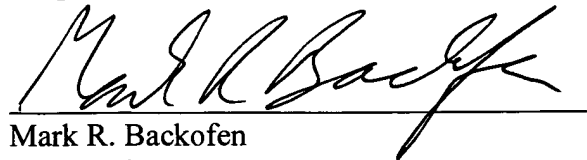
In light of the examiner's indication that dependent claim 5 is allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, independent claim 1, from which claim 5 depends, has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5 and claim 5 has consequently been cancelled. As such it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6-10 which all depend from claim 1 contain allowable subject matter and are in proper form for allowance.

Likewise, in light of the examiner's indication that dependent claim 33 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, independent claim 32, from which claim 33 depends, has been amended to incorporate the subject matter from allowable claim 33 and claim 33 has consequently been cancelled. As such

it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 32 and claims 34-35 which depend from claim 32 contain allowable subject matter and are in proper form for allowance.

It is believed that no fee is due for the submission of this response. If this is incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with this response to the Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP Deposit Account No. 12-1781.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Backofen", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark R. Backofen  
Registration No. 51,423

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Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP  
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2200  
Dallas, TX 75201-6776  
Telephone: (214) 740-8633  
Facsimile: (214) 756-8633